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THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1912.

"IS IT ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS?"

Sixty-six hundred men voted for the Common Council Tuesday out of a possible vote of about 9,000.

It is estimated that there are 27,000 men in Richmond who could vote, but 15,000 of these have not qualified to vote.

The electorate of Richmond is so small that it is practically controlled by an incompetent majority of incompetent men. Some of the ballot boxes Tuesday were guarded by the city employees and others who owed allegiance to certain of the candidates. The very presence of these men at the polls was an open defiance of the spirit of decent and honest election laws.

If 5,000 more voters could be added to the electorate, the power of an evil minority would be broken, and government by the citizens would be substituted for government by city employees.

The present situation is this: the city employees control the electorate. Because they control the electorate, they can elect their incompetent candidates to the Administrative Board. In other words, the city employees and the cut-throat politicians today control the management of the city's business.

The only way to wrest the administration of city affairs from the city employees is to add 5,000 more voters to the electorate. That must be done in the three remaining days of this week—to-day, Friday and Saturday. The final day for the payment of poll taxes is Saturday. After that date no one can qualify to vote for the Administrative Board.

The politicians and city employees have told you to "get out." They have replied to the demand of the people for a square method of election for the Administrative Board: "Is it any of your business?"

How about it? Is it any of your business? What right have you to interfere if five political puppets choose to waste \$2,000,000 of your city's money every year? Why should you open your mouth when you see a crew of peanut demagogues about to grab \$25,000 a year in salaries? Why should you care if your taxes are to be lavished on the city employees by an inefficient Administrative Board? Why should you protest if your money is paid out to men who are either already paid enough or are loafers and henchmen of cheap politicians?

The man who can pay his poll tax before Saturday, and who does not do it, confesses that he is unfit to be a citizen. The nonvoter in this election is classed with convicts, idiots and maniacs.

Make it your business to see that your city is run right by the right men.

Pay your poll tax to-day.

A SECESSION THREAT REMINDS.

The celebration Tuesday of the centennial of the admission of Louisiana into the Union of States recalls the interesting fact that during the congressional debate on the bill to admit the first threat in Congress of secession was made, and by a Massachusetts man.

In an article on the centennial the other day we noted that Mr. Jefferson questioned the constitutional warrant of his action in purchasing the Louisiana territory, and suggested the necessity of a constitutional amendment to validate it, but Congress ignored his position. Louisiana was the first State to be erected into a Territory after the adoption of the Constitution, and just as the purchase raised the issue of our constitutional power to acquire new territory, application for admission raised the issue of power of the Federal government to add to the number of the States at will.

The main contention of the opponents landed back to an argument advanced incidentally but in anticipation, by the opposition to ratifying the purchase, and which was that no new State could be admitted save by the consent of all the States. The Constitution itself is silent as to that particular point, the section on admission reading: "New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union, but no new State shall be formed or erected within the jurisdiction of any other State, nor any State be formed by the junction of two or more States or parts of States, without the consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned, as well as of the Congress."

Parentetically, it may be remarked that the prohibitory provisions of this article were grossly violated in the case of the erection of West Virginia into a State.

In the debate on the Louisiana admission bill, Josiah Quincy, of Massachusetts, expressed the belief that such an act ought to be, and doubtless would, cause revolution. "If the bill passes," he went on to declare, "the bonds of this Union are virtually dissolved; the States which compose it are free from

their moral obligations, and, as it will be the right of all, so it will be the duty of some to prepare definitely for a separation—amicably if they can, violently if they must." For these intemperate utterances Mr. Quincy was promptly and vigorously rebuked by George Polk, senator, territorial delegate, later Senator, from Mississippi.

This reminiscence lends a contemporary to suggest that as a matter of fact our right to acquire outside possessions still remains unrecognized in the Constitution. That may be, but it has been recognized in judicial decision and construction, as witness Judge Taney's conclusions bearing on the point in the Dred Scott case. At the same time, however, in that decision is denied the power to acquire any such territory except for the purpose of ultimately erecting it into a State or States. Hence comes up in perspective another interesting issue, which is, "What are we going to do about the Philippines and our other far insular holdings as respects their right to statehood?" The promise is at least another battle of polemic giants, if such there are in these days.

JIG-SAW PUZZLE IN BAY STATE.

Republican presidential aspirants called Massachusetts a "pivotal State" until that sedate and conservative Commonwealth spun around on its renowned hub and produced the dizziest preferential primary ever printed. Instead of indicating its wise choice of a possible chief executive, the Bay State staged a comic opera, with that astute politician, Theodore Roosevelt, smiling toothfully in the glare of his favorite illuminant, not Truth, but the limelight. The intent of the Massachusetts primary law, as far as it had an intent, was to enable the people to choose thirty-six delegates to the Republican convention by districts, and then add eight more "at large," who should represent the will of the voters as expressed in their preference. These last delegates were not supposed to be pledged, but to cast their ballots for the aspirant who received a majority vote in his party. Mr. Taft received this majority, but the delegates are still very much "at large" and the people equally at sea.

By some mystery of peevish folk, who cast blank ballots, or who gave themselves the double cross by failing to make their necessary twenty-two crosses at the proper places in the monstrous eight-column ballot given them, Mr. Taft got the preference, but Colonel Roosevelt corralled the delegates-at-large. These latter patriots being independent of primary laws, decided they would vote for their hero regardless of what the Solons who framed the law intended. Now enters prima donna Theodore, scenting a possible charge that he is not hearkening to the will of the people, and scenting still more acutely the psychological moment to play to the galleries, and graciously presents his bouquet of delegates to the victorious Taft.

This is right, just, noble and logical. It is the square deal by a dealer who is in the awkward position of having to square himself. It is playing the game, and most brilliantly playing politics. If Massachusetts wants a master of the craft for her next President, her primaries have by a kind of left-handed legerdemain marked out whom she must select. Most frank observers, however, will be less impressed by Roosevelt's magnanimity than by the cold fact that what he has hastened to give away might have been summarily taken from him. And in case a similar situation, with the east reversed, should happen in any other advanced State bent upon expressing its preference, he can exhaust his exhaustless vocabulary of vituperation unless Mr. Taft is similarly charitable.

The Massachusetts primary was a thrilling spectacle of the sublimely ridiculous. It shows that a diet of beans can produce results almost as catalytic as a diet of worms. Piling together a jig-saw primary may be amusing, but the tragic frustration of the will of the people cannot be forgotten. Yet if this preferential primary shows anything, it shows that Massachusetts people prefer to be foolish.

SUCCESS OF NIGHT SCHOOL.

The closing exercises of the Night School call attention to the splendid work being done in Richmond to extend the benefits of education to all classes. An enrollment of some 400, with an average attendance of 400 from October until May, indicates the widespread eagerness of those who are deprived by age or necessity from securing a regular education to get some profitable training at any cost. There is nothing more inspiring than the thought of earnest young men and women, and adults, too, coming at night, after the day's work, to gain more knowledge and better training to fit them for their work.

This instruction is thoroughly practical. It includes the courses of the last two years of the elementary schools and parts of the first two years of the high school. In addition, to meet the demands of adults, there have been included various vocational features, bookkeeping, penmanship and stenography, for men, and cooking, dressmaking and millinery, for women. The academic work is open to both sexes above the age of fourteen. An exhibition of practical work done in the classes gives conclusive proof of the value of the training offered.

This is education of the highest type. It is in keeping with the most modern ideas of making the schools reach out and help where help is most needed. Too little of this extension work has been done in the South, and Richmond is to be congratulated on inaugurating the movement and upon the instant response it has received.

The schools are too big an investment to be allowed to remain idle save for a few hours a day. Education is a fundamental asset for the community, and every step to further it means progress and prosperity. There is a constant cry that children are forced to leave the schools and go to work before they have completed the course. The night school gives the answer to this problem. Furthermore, it impresses the idea that education does not stop at any particular age; it can be continued through all the years of a man's life, and will not only mean a citizen better trained to produce in a material way, but one who is bound to get more and loftier pleasure out of life. We commend the School Board and its superintendent upon their wisdom and vision, and trust that the success of the work this year will result in its development as a vital part of our educational system.

"WASNT IT GREAT?"

That was what thousands of fans shouted to one another yesterday as they fled out of Lee Park at the close of a perfect afternoon of real baseball. Most auspiciously began the career of the United States League here, and most auspiciously did the Richmond team hit its way to victory in the first lap of the race for the "confection." A record-smashing crowd that jammed the stands and overflowed in thick streams in the open spaces enjoyed every moment of nine innings of first-class baseball, and the crowd was for the team from start to finish. It was a genuinely representative gathering—the high and the low were there, all rooting together for Richmond. The new home team played its way into popular favor with a vim and a dash that meant that the new diamond is going to draw large attendance all season.

The great outpouring of the sport lovers of Richmond yesterday indicated that they lend their support to Richmond's graduation from the minor league class into prospective major league circles. It will take time to effect the transition, but it will come. The baseball public of this city wants to have the very best possible baseball here, and they showed their interest and their enthusiasm yesterday by giving the new team and the new league as much of that made the owners grin like bilkies. If the first day's "article" was a fair sample of what is to follow, Lee Park is going to be a Mecca for fan, families and fanettes this year and next year and many other years. The new team "looks good" to the baseball lovers of Richmond; it certainly made good yesterday. It will have enthusiastic popular backing because of the brand of ball it plays, and because it is the beginning of better and bigger baseball for Richmond. Watch Richmond baseball grow.

THE VERSATILE WIRELESS.

Emphasis has been lent to the possibilities of wireless telegraphy by the "Titanic" disaster. The uses and misuses of Marconi's wonderful invention have been demonstrated, with the result that a new code of wireless law will be formulated and its use for humanity enlarged.

The wireless establishes communication where the construction crews of man cannot reach; its splutterings have saved already thousands in property and millions in human lives. To the far off fans on the bleak Alaskan shores it flashed the findings of the world's series, play by play. It creates news where there are no news; gathers it; keeps the sea in touch with land; it warns of disaster and aids in a hundred ways.

Surgery by wireless is the latest use to which the invention has been put. A laborer on Swan Island recently crushed his foot and found that it had to be amputated. There was no surgeon within leagues, nor medical books. So the wireless operator on the island called a ship 420 miles away, explained the situation to the ship's surgeon, and detail by detail the latter explained how the operation should be performed. The poor fellow's leg was amputated correctly, and now he is getting well. That sort of "S. O. S." opens up a new field of speculation as to the possible uses of the wireless; in fact, its potentialities tempt the imagination.

It is reported that the residents of the town of Ismay, Montana, are considering changing the name of their city on account of the criticism heaped upon the gentleman whose cognomen they had adopted as a title. They are considering choosing the name of one of the heroes of the disaster, but do not favor Astor, Butt or Smith. We think the Ismayites are a little hard to please, but, judging by the spirit of many Western towns, we imagine Titanic will be the final selection. At any rate, they can change the name, while Ismay, the man, can do nothing but stick it out.

France paid a bounty of 1 cent apiece upon nearly 8,000 vipers heads last year. But the best thing France can do to get rid of snakes is to put a bounty on asinine bottles.

Richmond is getting so advanced that when you hear somebody talking of the score, you have to find out whether it is the score of an opera from the Music Festival or yesterday's result in the big league.

A pessimist is a fellow who prophesies that all this cool weather will mean a torrid summer and forgets to enjoy the present blessing.

Jack Johnson got tangled up with the custom officials to the tune of \$2,500. His hat will be in the ring, too, before long.

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

Personal.

G. H. T.—Wear a leather cap, soak your gloves in gasoline every morning, put two or three streaks of black grease on your nose and talk about automobiles to everybody you meet. They will surely think you own one.

Henrietta—No, we do not believe that ladies should smoke cigarettes on the back platform of street cars, or on the front platform, either.

Janet—we quite agree with you. Janet, if he carries his loose change, before marriage, in one of those leather wallets with nine yards of string around it there is no prospect that he would make a spendthrift husband.

Pete—No, Zbyzsko, the wrestler, was named after a certain popular tea waiter.

The Cruel War.

(By a Staff Correspondent.)

Juarez, Mexico, April 29. The cruel and bitter, if not, in fact, almost peaceful war now in progress on the attendance today was all that could be expected. The grandstands were packed and the elite of Texas and the surrounding States was represented. The ladies wore their smartest frocks and silk hats, and frock coats were numerous in the crowd. The automobiles were parked about a mile from the battle, so as not to be in the way.

The war opened promptly at 10 o'clock in the morning after an overture by the band. General Chilli, General of the revolutionary forces, was the first to be injured and taken to the rear. He fell off the water wagon and broke three ribs and one of his commandments.

Colonel Tamale, of the government army, was repulsed during the day. He tried to flirt with the wife of one of the insurgent generals. This reverse was keenly felt by the government forces, whose uniforms exceed those of the insurgents by about 80 per cent.

General Carola, of the federal army, defeated General Gomez, of the insurgent forces, very decisively after a hard preliminary skirmish. General Gomez, felled with a bottled flush, and General Carola stood pat on four aces. The newspapers tell of an interesting engagement near Juarez. Senorita Bonilla, daughter of one of the Mexican army chieftains, has become engaged to Don Juan de Peruna, a rising young soldier of the insurgent army. It is about time this engagement was pulled off, for they have been going together for nearly nine years.

There will be no war to-morrow, as the same has been decided in order to allow the combatants and the spectators to attend a bull fight near El Paso.

The Saddest Days.

The saddest days of all the year. Housecleaning time is drawing near. Oh, ain't it awful, Mabel? When father cuts his humble fare here, there and almost everywhere. Without a single word of complaint. Or even to any lady. When all of our folks turn and fret. And discord is the one best bet. And short replies are all you get. To any sort of question. When father uses language crude. And gulps his food in manner rude. And does not see that it is chewed. And ruins his digestion. The air is charged with dynamite. And all the fates do hold a spite. When father wants to start a fight. With neither sense nor means. There's no joy in the old home nest. When father cannot find his vest. In married life the supreme test. Comes with the spring housecleaning.

Caught on the Fly.

Somebody has mentioned Dr. Wiley for Vice-President. It must have been some bitter enemy, such as Secretary Wilson, who did it. It is getting so the grocers look up a customer's standing in Bradstreet before sending a dozen fresh eggs to the house. The Colonel seems to bear a closer resemblance to the immortal Barkis every day.

The candidate who called Senator Jeff Davis a disgrace to Arkansas should remember that Arkansas has been disgraced by experts. Now that Senator Heyburn is again gleaming with alarm, things in general must be in bad condition. Schumann-Telack says "God's best handiwork is the American husband," and after that no American husband can have the heart to refuse to buy tickets to her concert.

It is rumored that Jim Jeffries is thinking of challenging Jack Johnson, but the gate receipts for such an event wouldn't pay training expenses.

A Western surgeon operated upon himself for appendicitis. He will probably send himself a bill through force of habit.

Voice of the People

Apples and Apple Barrels.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Will you kindly allow me a little space in the columns of "The Voice of the People?"

There is a question before the people of this country that is of great importance to the apple-growers. Some discussion of it has appeared in your and other papers of Virginia. The bill now pending before Congress, known as the "Sulzer bill," proposes to make a standard size barrel and a standard grading of apples. The grading is to be known as "United States Standard B" and "United States Standard C," which

Abe Martin

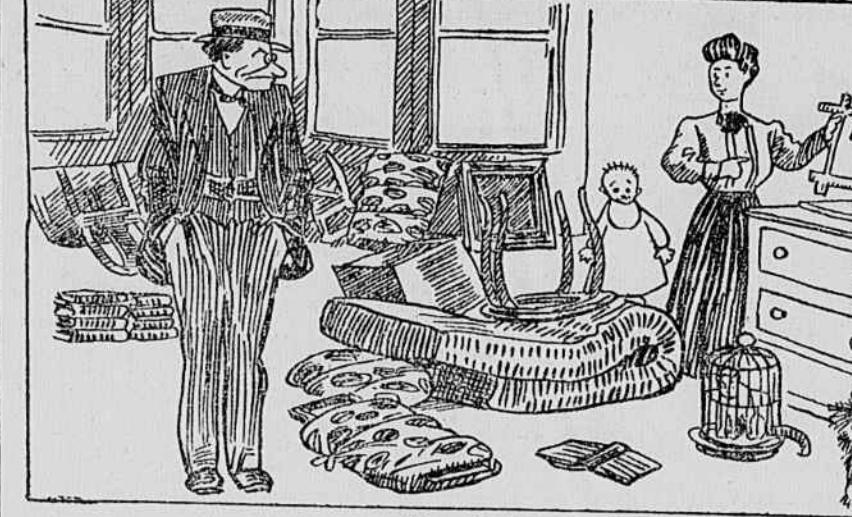
Blacksmith

Tipson Bud inspectin' Floridy land this week. 'In a view of buyin' land this week. 'Nother makes a feller feel as ole as goin' to the boyhood town of 'seem' how squatty 'th' courthouse looks.

"MOVING" PICTURES.

By John T. McCutcheon.

(Copyright, 1912, By John T. McCutcheon.)



"Where shall I hang it, Henry?"



Puzzle—Find the man who can't find his razor. Puzzle—Find the happy woman whose cook is leaving. Puzzle—What does the man say when he discovers that the water hasn't been turned on yet.



Have you ever noticed how cheap your furniture looks when it stands on the sidewalk where the neighbors can see it—and yet how nice it really looks when it is safely installed in your house?

would mean according to the method used now as No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3. The said bill given a grader, which allows in per cent. of the apples to fall below the grading that the A, B and C is supposed to stand for. The consumer expects to get three bushels in a barrel and the grower expects to give three bushels in support of the bill. The United States court for the district whether it be his fault or the fault of the grower. It might be one or the other. The grower is the one who is required by the law, is the one who will be hauled up to answer the charge.

Now, Mr. Editor, we all agree that there should be a standard barrel and that barrel should be large enough to hold three bushels of apples, no more or less. The consumer expects to get three bushels in a barrel and the grower expects to give three bushels in support of the bill. The United States court for the district whether it be his fault or the fault of the grower. It might be one or the other. The grower is the one who is required by the law, is the one who will be hauled up to answer the charge.

I heard some of the speculators state to the Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures, House of Representatives, that the dealer can hold the apples out of storage or in storage as long as he pleases, and if they go bad the grower is also responsible for it, no matter how good a condition the apples were in when they were carried from the orchard.

The grading proposition seems to me to be unwise and will work hardship on the grower when a bad barrel of apples is found, although some one else may be responsible for it, as well as the difficulty in providing for the great number of varieties of apples.

APPLE GROWER IN PIEDMONT VIRGINIA. Crozet, Va., April 29, 1912.

"Nearer, My God, to Thee."

As sank the doomed Titanic Beneath the yawning sea, Its last of earthly music Was "Nearer, My God, to Thee"; Even to its last inspiring breath, And of a faith triumphant While facing certain death.

And "Nearer, My God, to Thee"; What pathos evermore Were hero hearts that played it. All faithful souls will love it. For man will ever lend An added inspiration. God's with us to the end.

"Nearer, My God, to Thee."

Will make the whole world kin; And scenes of death and danger Revealed the man within. No matter how a pauper, Or misjudged millionaire, His soul, if high, heroic, Shines out in beauty there.

And as we sing hereafter Of "Nearer, My God, to Thee," Oh, may we all remember That we are all as one; And judge not others harshly. For when the test is given They may show themselves full worthy Of earth as well as heaven. DUYAL PORTER.

The Titanic.

It was a calm and starlit sea. The midnight hour was passed. A mighty cargo of human freight Laid sunk to sleep at last.

There comes a burst of thunder sound; With his money, oh, where is he? The cruel waves alone can tell. As with corpses they strew the sea.

Such was the wreck of the greatest ship. On a mountain of ice and snow. Christ save us all from a death like this. When we are called to go. R. Y. VIRGINIAN.

QUERIES & ANSWERS

Confederate.

To whom may I send contributions for the Confederate monument at Arlington? Which is the best Southern history of the battles of the War? Which is best for the constitutional questions involved? C. Thomas S. Hecock, Richmond, Va., Ginter Park.

No one can say. If you wish vigorous and tolerably fair stories of the battles without attempt at "historical science" Pollard's History will serve as well as any. Stephens' "War Between the States."

Early Easter Celebration.

When was Easter first celebrated as a heathen feast? JOSEPH GITGE.

Long before the people of Northern Europe had any means of recording dates or events and, so, the time of their earliest celebration is lost. As to the Southern people, like the Egyptians, the record is so little clear that it is not even certain that their celebration was not borrowed from the Jews in the time of the Egyptian Captivity.

Duties of Matron.

Will you tell me what are the duties of a matron in a school? A. S.

In general, a matron should have supervision of servants, the care of clothing, household linen, etc. From your letter you seem to have in mind a special position, and you may, of course get accurate statement of the duties at this place by asking those in control.

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